1306. [*Transferred to 12th August, 1993*]

Expenditure Incurred on Advertisements

1307. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent by his Ministry on advertisements during 1992-93; and

(b) what is the value of advertisements which have been given to the newpaper (Language-wise) during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Opening up of Indian Ports for US and NATO Navies.

1308. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to open up Indian ports like Cochin for US and NATO navies;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions; and

(c) the benefits to be accrued to our country from such openness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Indian Ports are open for the visits of foreign naval vessels subject to their obtaining clearance from Ministries like Defence, External Affairs, etc. Generally their visits are goodwill in nature.

Restriction on Port Craft and Public Sector Shipyards

1309. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to restrict sources of port craft and other vessels to four public sector shipyards;

(b) if so, the details and the factors that have weighed for taking the decision;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the major ports and private sector companies manufacturing port crafts have opposed the decision;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to reconsider the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) In order to utilise the installed capacity of the four public sector shipyards under the administrative control of Ministry of Surface Transport viz., Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin, Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta and Rajabagan Dockyard of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, Calcutta. It has been decided that the tender enquiries in respect of vessels and crafts required by the Major Ports costing Rs. 10.00 crores and above each be limited to the above four Public Sector Shipyards only. However, public tenders may be called for orders of vessels and crafts required by Major Ports below Rs. 10.00 crores each.

(c) and (d) Representations were received from some of the Major Port Trusts as well as Shipyards Association of India. In their representations, the Major Port Trusts stated that by limiting the competition within the four public Sector Shipyards the project may not be cost effective and time bound due to poor financial condition and high overhead cost of these Shipyards. The Shipyards Association of India pointed out that Government decision in this regard will deprive Private Sector Shipyards of the major source of work and will render them sick.

(e) The present decision is only for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 and would be reviewed in October, 1994 for such modifications as may be considered necessary which will then become applicable with effect from 1st April, 1995 onwards.

Setting up of Drivers' Training School

1310. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether road safety committee set up by the Transport Ministry in the year 1992 had recommended for setting up Drivers' Training Institute from the States as well as on national level;

(b) if so, whether a number of schools for providing training to the Drivers were set up by the State Governments and Union Territories;